

ILNA Coin Digest

Winter/Spring 1993



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President's Message

How fast the last six months have passed since being elected president of ILNA at our annual convention in Peoria. I've been meeting a lot of people and also learning what makes ILNA "tick." I have relied on the help and advice of several of our board members in learning the "ins" and "outs" of the organization. There have been a lot of ideas exchanged and work done in the areas of our *Digest*, membership, annual convention and assistance to local clubs.

On membership, I take particular pride in the fact we have 48 new members since July, plus our 70 life members and 190 annual dues-paying members. We have two new junior members which, while not impressive, is a start.

We are listing show dates free of charge in the *Digest*, as well as the club profiles. On the local club level, have you tried supplying numismatic material to your local library, compliments of your club? This should educate people to the hobby and, hopefully, lead to new members. This is my personal project locally and has been received well by the library staff.

On *Digest* contents, there is new advertising in this issue, but we can use more. The *Digest* should increase in size as ideas become reality.

I would prefer to not go into detail on our annual convention at this time. Some ideas still must become reality. We do feel we will have a sold-out bourse at \$99 a table until May 1, so get your table rent money in early. Tables will be \$125 after May 1. Complete details will follow on the convention in our Summer 1993 edition.

Remember, sharing your numismatic knowledge with other collectors is what makes the hobby more enjoyable for everyone.

If you pay annual dues and they are paid-up for 1993, your membership card will be attached to one of the interior pages.

Numismatically yours,

Kermit W. Wasmer, President, ILNA

ILNA would like to extend their sympathy to the family of Milburn Stonecipher of Centralia who has recently passed away. Mr. Stonecipher was Life Member #16 of the Association.

Word has just been received of the passing of John Clark, a longtime ILNA member from Melvin. John was an active member of the Rantoul Club. His loss will be missed by everyone who knew him. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

Raymond Dillard rolled 1959 coinage (the founding year of ILNA) in commemoration of the 1992 ILNA convention. A limited amount of 1959 elongated coinage was rolled and then the die was canceled. The following is the mintage figures and prices:

1959	Pennies	200	\$1.00
1959	Nickels	155	\$2.00
1959	Dimes	148	\$3.00
1959	Quarters	160	N/A *
1959	Half	11	N/A **

From the above, the following were made:

1959	4 coin set	42	\$11.00
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ILNA Board Meeting Minutes February 14, 1993 Rantoul, Illinois

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by President Wasmer.

The following board members were present:

Kermit Wasmer	Jim Erlenborn	Sonny Henry	Darrell Geiger
Jim Kaczor	Erthel Rose	Dennis Witter	Joe Wagner
Glen De Valk			

The secretary's report was read. Motion to accept as read was made by Wasmer, seconded by Henry. Motion carried

The treasurer's report was distributed to all members present. Motion to accept by Erlenborn, seconded by Henry. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

President Wasmer gave the details of the bulk mailing process to the board members. It was noted that by continuing with bulk mailing that considerable savings to the ILNA treasury could be afforded. Costs of mailing were reduced from .29 to .16-.18 each for items, dependent upon quantity mailed out. Substantial savings also were noted for the bulk mailing of the ILNA Digests. Savings of over \$100 per year were also noted, due to the fact that the annual membership cards could be sent along with the Digest to members who had paid for the year.

An updated membership list was given to the secretary and the Digest editor. Final updates were to be added after the meeting. Dennis Witter and/or Jack Zillion had suggested in prior meetings that they could put the membership list on computer and update it as required to help ease the burden and workload upon the Digest Editor. This was accepted by the board and put into effect retroactive to the last ILNA meeting. The membership roster showed a total of 22 club memberships, 70 life memberships, and 293 annual memberships. It was noted that while some numismatic associations both at the state and local level are showing declining memberships, the ILNA has continued to grow larger.

Jim Kaczor briefed the board on the I&M Canal project. He stated that the title and table of contents were finished, as well as chapter one. Upon completion of the project, it is the board's hope that every ILNA member will be sent a completed copy and remainder of books to be sold.

President Wasmer reminded the board members that profiles were needed for inclusion in upcoming editions of the ILNA Digest.

Association dues for regular members was increased to \$7 from \$5. Increases had not been made in a long time and were raised due to the increasing costs of postage and mailing expenses.

NEW BUSINESS

The secretary provided a 1993 Dues report to all present. As of this date, we showed a total of 76 annual members who had paid dues for this year. All members who had sent in their dues were entered into a drawing for three silver rounds. The three winners of silver rounds were: Randall Doty, Ward Witter, and Carl Wolf. The rounds will be sent out within the week. All other members will be receiving their membership cards per mail with the Digest. Any member who has not yet paid their 1993 dues are encouraged to do so. Life memberships for those who wish are available for a one-time fee of \$50. Life members receive a metal membership card which is engraved with their name and Life membership number. All life memberships have to be approved by the board.

New life members which were approved at the February 14th meeting included Kermit Wasmer, Dennis Witter, Jack Zillion, and Duane Serck. The board wishes them a sincere welcome aboard.

President Wasmer discussed possible improvements to the ILNA Digest. Some confusion as to the frequency of Digest mailings was brought to the board's attention. Wasmer informed the board that some members thought that the Digest was a monthly publication while in actuality it is published and mailed three times a year. Changes are to be made to clarify this matter. Wasmer stated that he had sent out requests to all member coin clubs asking for their profiles for inclusion in the Digest. It was also suggested that the Young Numismatists and Junior Members be profiled in the Digest as well.

Various aspects of the 1993 ILNA Annual Convention were discussed. Erlenborn noted that the exhibits should be centralized in one area of the bourse floor to allow everyone to review and study them, noting that in the past the exhibits had been somewhat sporadically placed on the bourse. Various aspects of table prices, budgeting, security, displays, and show promotion were discussed. Show committee chairmen were appointed as follows:

Convention Chairman..... Jim Erlenborn
Bourse Co-chairmen..... Joe Irmen and Joe DeModica
Exhibit Chairman Jim Erlenborn
Registration Chair..... Dennis Witter
Hospitality Chairman..... Jimmy Kaczor

Education/Seminars..... Mark Wieclaw
Auction Chairman..... Sonny Henry, Joe Irmen, Mark Wieclaw
Publicity Co-chairs Dennis Witter, Joe Irmen, Kermit Wasmer
Show Coordinator Kermit Wasmer

The 1993 ILNA Annual Convention is to be held at the Holiday Inn, Peoria, on September 17, 18, and 19.

The July meeting is to be held at President Wasmer's residence on June 27, in Watseka.

Motion to adjourn was made by Erlenborn, seconded by Rose. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

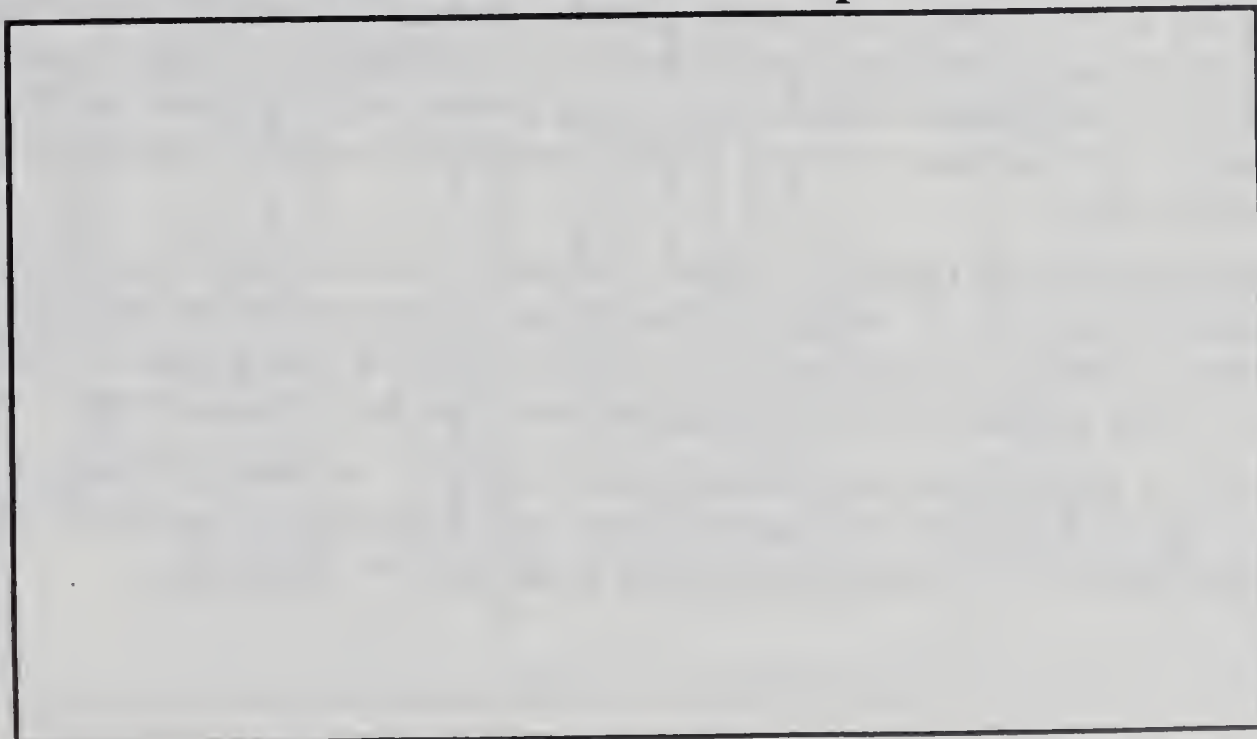
Respectfully Submitted,
Darrell Geiger, Secretary

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Club Profiles

Tazewell Numismatic Society

The Tazewell Numismatic Society was founded in 1960 and has been incorporated as a non-profit organization. The membership is presently at about 60 members with about half attending the monthly meetings. Each meeting has an auction and refreshments are served. The club sponsors two shows a year, one in April and the other in August. The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the First Methodist Church. Dues are presently \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for junior members. The club welcomes new collectors living in the area to their meetings.

Fairfield Coin Club

The Fairfield Coin Club began in May 1967 with 21 charter members. Monthly meetings are on the second Sunday of each month at Frontier College, Routes 15 and 45 West, in Fairfield, IL. Doors open at 12:30 pm and the meeting is at 1:30 pm. Membership is open and visitors are always welcome. Dues are \$2 per year, as they have been since the club was founded. The annual Fall Show is held at the North Side School on the second Sunday in October. About 90% of the dealers have coins and numismatic items; others have coin-related jewelry.

Along with membership in ILNA, the club is a member of ANA. We are active in the community. Some past projects have been: donations of funds for trees for the parks, x-ray equipment for the hospital, boy scouts and girl scouts, Sunshine Center for the handicapped, college building expansion; numismatic books to the local library and red books to all the schools. The club now has two \$500 scholarship awards annually at the Frontier College.

Junior members are charged no dues, and juniors at the meetings are given packets of coins. To help with the financial operation of the club, a donation auction is conducted at the March meeting every year. This has proven to be a good fund raiser and everyone has fun at the auction.

The club's membership averages around 110-120. At the Fall show, dues are accepted for the next year and those who pay are given a silver coin. This has proven to be an effective way to attract new members.

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Feature Article

The Flying Eagle Cent (1856 – 1858)

by J. Zillion, Westlake Rare Coins

By the early 1850s, the large-size one-cent piece, in use since 1793, had proven itself to be increasingly unsuitable. Complaints about its bulkiness, as well as increasing mintage costs, made a new smaller cent necessary. In early 1856, Mint Director James Snowden finally decided on a new one-cent coin. It was to be composed of an alloy containing 88 percent copper and 12 percent nickel, weighing 72 grains and measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (19 millimeters) in diameter.

The new small cent depicted on its obverse a slightly modified version of engraver Christian Gobrecht's *Flying Eagle*. This had been used on pattern coins of previous years, but never on a circulating coin. It showed a large, majestic eagle, with outstretched wings and tailfeathers, flying right to left. The reverse was the creation of designer James B. Longacre, showing a simple wreath along with the denomination "One Cent" in its center.

It is estimated that approximately one thousand Flying Eagle cents were struck with an 1856 date. These coins were patterns in the strictest sense, and were intended merely as samples, to be given to Treasury officials, senators, representatives, and other legislators. Despite this fact, many of the pieces saw heavy circulation. Consequently, high grade examples of this classic rarity are extremely difficult to obtain. Business strikes, which were notorious for being weakly struck, began with the 1857 issues. They continued into 1858, at which time three major varieties (large letters, small letters, and 1858 over 7) were produced. A very small quantity of proof specimens were made each year, and are highly sought-after by collectors.

Consistent striking problems, due mainly to the hardness of the copper-nickel alloy, led to the Flying Eagle's demise in late 1858. At that time, Mint Director Snowden directed Longacre to prepare other cent designs, which later gave rise to the popular Indian Cent. Although short-lived, the Flying Eagle remains one of the more popular and collectible coin series to this day.

This is the second of a regular series of articles on paper money and coins throughout the history of our country. We hope you will find it both interesting and informative.

ILNA Board Member Profiles

Glen De Valk

My numismatic interests first surfaced when I was a youngster growing up in Chicago. I was fascinated by the new Franklin half dollar beginning to circulate in 1948. At that time, there were still Barber coins, Indian cents, Standing Liberty quarters, and other types showing up in my paper route collections. From this smorgasbord of circulating coins, I began trying to assemble a type set of U.S. coins. It wasn't long before I began haunting the local coin shops and I was a confirmed coin collector. It was great fun then and is still, and I am yet working on that set.

My wife, Ronda, and I have three grown children and two grandchildren. We operated funeral homes at Watseka and Sheldon, Illinois for many years. We retired from the profession in 1987.

Locally, I am a member of the Wat-Cha-Kee Coin Club at Watseka, and also a member of ANA. I just recently joined ILNA and am honored to be asked to be a member of the Board. There are many positive changes taking place within ILNA, and I look forward to participating in this renewed growth and service to the true coin collector, who is the backbone of this wonderful hobby.

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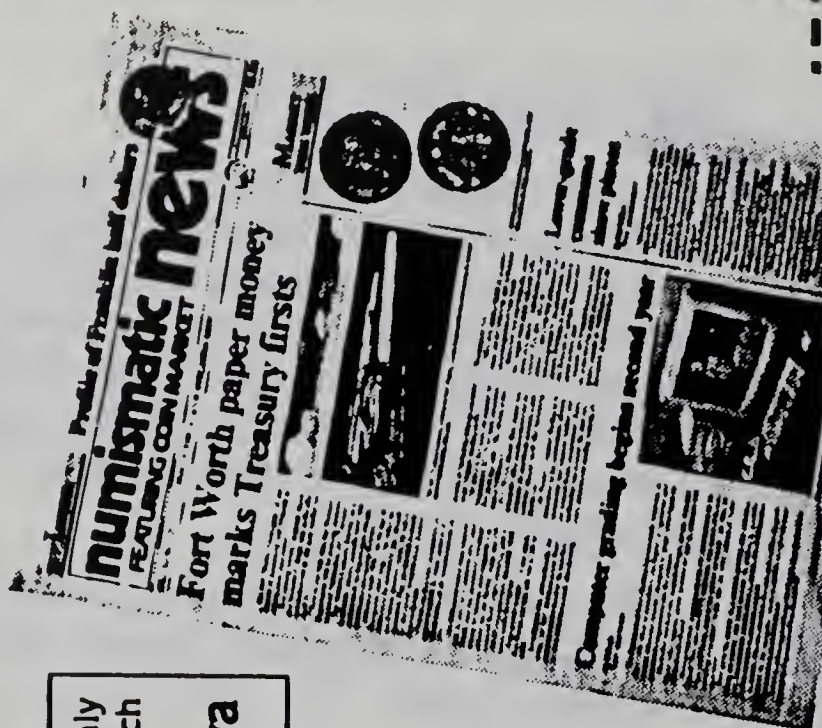
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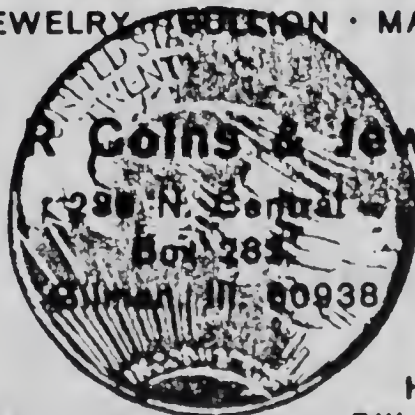
"Sonny" Henry

My lovely wife, Sharon, and I live in Mendota, IL and have two daughters, Lisa and Erica. I am interested in all areas of numismatics, including being a board member of ILNA. I've been involved with the ANA in various capacities such as assisting with their young numismatist auction, as well as attending their counterfeit detection school and grading school. I belong to five area coin clubs and like to give talks and seminars to various civic organizations. I'm interested in collecting high-grade key date and type coins. I am an auctioneer and conduct a monthly coin auction at Peru, IL at the Howard Johnson Motel at the intersection of I-80 and 251. The current auction dates are listed in my ad in this issue of the *Digest*. The auctions have about 400 lots, with the coins generally selling from \$25 to \$2500.

I was honored recently with an article written by Al Doyle of *Numismatic News*, which appeared in one of their December publications. It told how my interest in coins and desire to be an auctioneer have progressed to my present auctions. I promote the hobby of collecting and numismatics in general, whenever I get the chance. I want to make it as much fun and as enjoyable as I can, as there are so many nice and interesting people in this area. The real joy of the hobby is sharing your knowledge with other collectors, which I am always ready to do as time permits.

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Coinology

by Jimmy Kaczor

In my column in the last issue of the Digest, I mentioned my particular interest in Numismatics: obsolete paper money and Numismatic books. To be a student of "coin collecting," it behooves one to know more than is to be found in the "Red Book", Coin Market in Numismatic News, or Coin World Trends in Coin World. Now hear me right, they are all good, it's just that there is more to the world of coin collecting than what is on the surface.

Numismatics can be compared to other fields of study, such as geology. Within geology there are different time periods that can be studied, such as the Cenozoic era or one of its subdivisions. It is similar for coin collecting. Sometimes a person will say he is a coin collector, and when asked what he collects he will say "Oh, everything." To start with, it is impossible to collect just everything. To be a serious collector you must think about and organize what you collect. Some day I intend to write a series of articles of the different things to collect, but for today, I'd like to tell you about two important books in my area of collecting. These two old books were not intended at the time of writing to be numismatic books per se, but studies in economic history.

The first is Fractional Money (subtitled "A History of the Small Coins and Fractional Paper Currency of the United States") by Neil Carothers. It was published in 1930. Please read the forward in this book; it is short but to the point. What can you learn from the book? A lot about small coins, the definition of fractional currency, coins in the colonies, coins in the Civil War period, Robert Morris, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, and the Law of 1873 (if you don't know the so called "crime of 73" you need to). While the 1930 edition is difficult to find, fear not, it has been reprinted in recent years and is available. ANA members can write to the ANA library for US20 K6.

The second book is invaluable, especially to the collectors of paper money. It is called United States Notes (subtitled "A History of the Various Issues of Paper Money by the Government of the United States") by John Jay Knox. It was published in 1884 and revised in 1885. It has 12 chapters, each dealing with a different subject or period of time, starting with colonial paper money. This book is hard to find, but you can occasionally find it at auctions. But don't despair. You can usually find it at your local library or can get it through a library loan. ANA members can write to the ANA library for US50 C3.

So long for this time.

Jimmy is available to give club presentations on many interesting topics. Please contact him by writing to Jimmy Kaczor, 1306 Hollycrest Dr., Champaign, IL 61821 for further information.



Front row: Jim Erlenborn, Mark Wieclaw. Back row: Kermit Wasmer, Joe DeModica, Dennis Witter, Joe Irmien, Jimmy Kaczor, and Glen De Valk. Board members Erthel Rose, Joe Wagoner, and Darrel Geiger not present.

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Upcoming Coin Shows

- Mar 7, 1993 (Sun) Wat-Cha-Kee Coin Club Annual Coin Show. *Location:* American Legion Post, Watseka, IL. *Contact:* Ed Bush, 232 E. Lincoln St., Watseka, IL 60970.
- Mar 28, 1993 (Sun) Lake County Coin Club 33rd Annual Coin Show. *Location:* Moose Lodge No. 706, 2755 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL 60085. *Table fees:* \$20/table, checks payable to Lake County Coin Club. *Contact:* Les Hannula, 2210 Crescent Place, Waukegan, IL 60085, 708-662-1955.
- Apr 4, 1993 (Sun) Mattoon Coin Club Spring Show. *Location:* Holiday Inn, East Route 16, Mattoon, IL. *Time:* 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission free. Dealer bourse, hourly door prizes. *Contact:* Maurice Shepherd, 2750 Whippoorwill Dr., Charleston, IL 61920.
- April 24–5, 1993 (Sat/Sun) Tazewell Numismatic Society 33rd Annual Show. *Location:* Miller Senior Citizen Center, 551 S. 14th St., Pekin, IL (1/2 block north of Pekin Hospital and across from Pekin Park Lagoon). *Time:* Sat 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. *Table Fee:* \$20/day. *Contact:* TNS Inc. P.O. Box 696, Pekin, IL 61554. Dale O. Freidinger, Bourse Chairman, 309-353-6178. Admission free.
- Oct 10, 1993 (Sun) Fairfield Coin Club 23rd Annual Show. *Location:* North Side Grade School, 806 North First Street, Fairfield, IL. Free prizes and free drawings. 20–25 dealers. *Contact:* Cecil Draper, RFD #3, Fairfield IL 62837. 618-847-4811.

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